[9th September 1959

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Has the Hon. the Minister at any time visited the level-crossing near Kodambakkam when it gets closed in the evenings and has he observed that it takes a period of more than 45 minutes to open and if so, will the Government advance the priority and take up the proposal of constructing an over-bridge next year at least? May I also know what the Film-company owners are prepared to contribute towards the cost of the over-bridge?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have also been a victim so many times, although the hon. Member who is a resident of that area might have suffered worse. The question is one of finding the necessary finances for the construction of the bridge. That has to be borne by the State Government and the Corporation. I have already said that the cost would be Rs. 20 lakhs to be shared equally between the Corporation of Madras and the State Government and as for the share of the Corporation, the Madras Government will give them a loan of Rs. 10 lakhs which will be their contribution. The cost of the bridge proper has to be borne by the Railway authorities. So far as the film-company owners are concerned, they have promised to make a token contribution towards the cost.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR : Sir, is there any priority fixed for these bridges and if so, on what basis the prority is given? Is there any proposal to construct a bridge at the Tiruvottiyur level-crossing?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There was a discussion between the Public Works Department and the Railway authorities and the Chief Engineer, Highways. After full discussion, a priority list has been drawn up and in that list the Tiruvottiyur road has marked second after the McNicholls road. The first to be taken up will be the bridge on the Lighthouse Road.

Sea erosion at Dhanushkodi

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member Sri Ramachandran is not present and the question and answer will be printed in the official proceedings.

* 240 Q.—SRI K. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was erosion due to flow of water from the sea into Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram taluk on 20th May 1959;

(b) if so, the extent of loss and damage caused; and

(c) the protective measures taken to prevent the same?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No loss or damage was caused.

(c) The matter is under consideration.